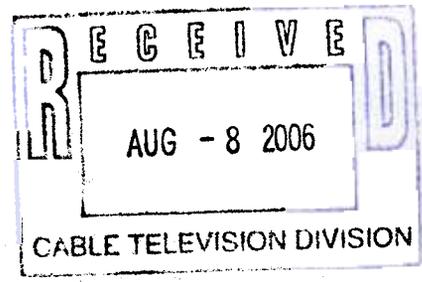


TOWN OF LINCOLN

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Timothy S. Higgins

August 7, 2006

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston MA 02111

Dear Ms. Nixon,

The Town of Lincoln wishes to go on record as being opposed to Verizon's March 16, 2006 petition proposing changes to the CATV licensing process.

Verizon's proposed rules would greatly reduce the time frame by which a community could work with a cable license applicant prior to issuance or denial of a cable license. This fast-tracked process could cause a great hardship to smaller communities who manage such processes via the participation and approvals of elected volunteer officials.

The Town of Lincoln is currently in the midst of negotiating a second cable license with Verizon. At the urging of our residents, we are proactively and collaboratively working with Verizon to establish a second cable license for the Town which would offer our citizens a choice beyond the existing Comcast service. Lincoln is very fortunate in that we have a good working relationship with the Verizon agents assigned to the development of this license; and while we are committed to establishing a license as expeditiously as possible, it would be impossible to complete this process in less than three months.

Our Board of Selectmen has delegated the task of drafting the license with Verizon to a committee comprised of professional full time town staff, and developed an expedited schedule for processing of this second license. Still, the mere process of attempting to schedule meetings at which the two Verizon representatives would be available to meet with our staff has in itself lengthened the licensing timeframe. Additionally, the time needed to review and discuss updated drafts of the proposed license adds to the process time frame - despite communications via phone and email between meetings. Even with the high degree of cooperation and collaboration shown by both Lincoln and Verizon in

our current licensing endeavors, we still could not have created an expedited process which could be concluded within the timeframes proposed by Verizon. The “narrowly circumscribed issues” referred to in Verizon’s petition cannot be speedily addressed. Both parties are best served by allowing adequate time to meet and to negotiate the issues at hand.

We urge the cable Division to take a strong look at the true time frames necessary to allow proper review and issuance of these cable licenses.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy S. Higgins
Lincoln Town Administrator

